

# Immigration - 1928

## Color Line Proposed Against Immigrants

Washington—The color line was recently brought into the house immigration committee hearings on the Box bill. Dr. H. M. Laughlin of the Carnegie institution urged that immigration and naturalization be restricted to persons of no less than 31-32 white blood. The provision suggested, would meet the fact that the 1924 immigration law does not include American counties in its restrictions, and also the fact that Senegalese and other dark races born in France can be admitted to the United States under the French quota. His plan would still permit Canadians and Mexicans of Castilian blood to enter.

## IMMIGRATION IN 1927

During the year ending June 30, 1927, immigrants admitted to this country numbered 635,175 and the number of emigrants was 73,366, making a net increase in immigrant aliens of 261,809. The excess of immigrants over emigrants of each of several nationalities is indicated below:

Austria 548; Belgium 282; Czechoslovakia 1,267; Denmark 1,469; France 2,768; Germany 43,765; England 4,996; Scotland 11,170; Wales 1,024; Irish Free State 27,005; Lithuania 456; Netherlands 1,277; Norway 4,282; Poland

6,561; Rumania 22; Russia 941; Sweden 7,172; Switzerland 1,527; all other European peoples of which immigrants exceeded emigrants 1,733. Immigrants from Greece, Hungary, Italy, Finland, and Portugal and Spain were fewer than the number of emigrants to these countries. Total immigration from Europe was 168,368 and the total emigration to Europe was 55,402.

Emigration to the Orient exceeded immigration in the case of all countries except Syria and Palestine, the excess of immigrants from these two countries being 727.

The greatest immigration was from other countries of the western hemisphere. The excess of immigrants over emigrants was distributed as follows: Canada 79,553; Newfoundland 2,587; Mexico 64,764; Cuba 1,422; all others 2,243. —Adapted from World Almanac.

## IMMIGRATION STIRS CONGRESS

ONE of the questions that bids fair to claim the major portion of Congressional attention and rivet world interest on its consideration and disposition is the immigration question now looming on the political horizon as the over-shadowing luminary, even putting in eclipse the perpetual prohibition tournament in which the moist, damp or wet New York, Maryland and New Jersey solons formerly held the spotlight.

The immigration situation has been a hot topic of our national executives, our senators and congressmen. Where and just how it will end, none can tell.

Congress and the Federal authorities first awakened to the seriousness of the great and almost unrestrained free influx of foreigners into the United States during the World War. The crux of the situation was reached when it was found that millions of men of military age in the United States were not available for service in many branches of the military service of the United States because they were not naturalized. Other millions of foreign born men and women had accumulated an aggregate of billions of dollars in this country, most of which was either invested abroad or was unavailable for the purchase of United States war bonds. Congress then determined that at the conclusion of the war definite steps would be taken to curtail emigration to this country, at least until the many millions already here should either be absorbed or thoroughly Americanized. The present Federal laws now in operation, whereby citizens of foreign countries are permitted to enter this country from Greece, Hungary, Italy, Finland, and take up permanent residence only as the greatly reduced quotas of their respective countries will permit, are to be amended if proponents of greater emigration and larger quotas from some countries of the world are successful.

There is the problem of the admittance of immigrants from the new world, South America, Mexico, Canada and our island possessions. Some would have the bars raised higher against immigrants from these countries and some would have them lowered.

Colored people, as a rule, view the immigration question as being no concern of theirs, directly or indirectly and display little or no interest in it other than to protest the exclusion of all Negroes and most of the yellow and darker races. He assumes it is the "white man's burden,"—and so it has been the last few years. He seems to be on both horns of the dilemma.

What ever the outcome it will have a decided effect on the social and industrial destiny of Negroes; for it must be definitely understood that the prime ob-

ject in permitting immigration is to appease the Angle-Maniacs who want to keep the country white always, in the interest of white supremacy. Given to this fetish the American whites have gotten themselves in a predicament from which they know not how to extricate themselves. However that may be, if the Negro must do detached thinking on the immigration question, he must do so on terms of race protection and betterment with an eye also to the greatest good to the greatest number, he must stand for limited immigration for the protection of the immigrant as well as his self protection.

An interesting experiment with immigration was tried during the last term of Roosevelt as president. Ben Tillman, the fiery senator from South Carolina, wanted to starve out the Negroes of his state, so he had Congress pass special legislation permitting the importation of Italians to the south to supplant Negro labor, especially farm labor, and incidentally keep the south white. Louisiana, Georgia, and Mississippi joined in the experiment and sent their agents to Italy to recruit the workers.

Congress appropriated large sums to build and equip a special immigration station at Charleston, S. S., the port of entry and clearing house bureau for the interested states to claim their quotas of workmen and their families. The southerners expressed great sorrow that they had to supplant the lazy (?) Negroes with foreign help but told the world that they had brought it on themselves. The Negroes "laughed it off" and waited to see what would happen.

The Italians came, accepted the jobs and settled with their families in the towns, on the farms or in the cities. In anticipation of their coming, merchants laid in great stocks of goods to make a "killing" with the ignorant foreigners as they had previously done with the ignorant Negroes. But the foreigners proved too thrifty. They spent little, earned much and soon the store-keepers were bankrupt and the Italians soon owned both the farms and the stores. Needless to say the project was abandoned.

This country brought the foreigners here to exploit them—and the foreign element was fast getting control of the country and the white folks are in a dilemma. They might get out some way, but we doubt it. It might have occurred to them before this to give every American a square deal and an opportunity but it has not. As long as they remain blind to these facts there is no hope for them nor a chance to live up to their slogan, "America for the Americans."

## NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 18 1928 W  
PANAMA SETS ALIEN QUOTA.

Five Each of Chinese, Syrians, Turks and Negroes to Enter Yearly.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
BALBOA, July 17.—A quota of only five yearly is allowed Chinese, Syrians, Turks and negroes, which are

excluded under Panama's new immigration law, according to a decree just made public by the Foreign Office here. Japanese and Hindoos also were excluded under the original law, which later was amended to lift the ban on those races. Today's decree also requires all foreigners resident in Panama to have a residence certificate and identification card.

The exclusion of negroes is limited to persons of the African race whose mother tongue is other than Spanish, which avoids any discrimination of that class of citizens from other Latin-American countries.

Panama needs immigrant labor for the development of the republic. This need previously has been filled by West Indian negroes now excluded. The United Fruit Company is importing laborers from Nicaragua and San Salvador for the development of its new banana plantations on the Pacific coast of Panama.



## The Bar Against The Filipinos

The Welch Bill, now before Congress, proposing to bar Filipinos as immigrants on the ground that they are of Malay stock will not be opposed generally by colored Americans. Equally true is the proposal for the limitation of Mexican immigrants. In the south, both have competed with American colored labor to the latter's detriment. The Pullman Company has seriously proposed the employment of Filipinos as porters. Many of them are now so engaged on club cars leaving Chicago and other western points. The Mexicans, because they demand neither the wages nor working conditions of Americans including colored men have supplanted the latter in the irrigation and construction work of the Southwest. It will be a source of much help to colored America if higher restrictions are placed against the Mexicans and Asiatics who come to our shores and will not assimilate with either our white or colored population.